Dear Howard, The House committee and Bud- confidential 9/26/76

It seems that all of my vigorous moves of the past days have worked. Even the suggestion to Jim on Ray, the ccazy one. On this word from Jim by phone tonight. On the rest Bud, who was here this evening and early night.

My success, however, has made a major problem for Bud and the life of the committee. Without it the committee will have no life. Gonzalez has already started acting like a Weberman. He fully expects to be chairman next year, when Downing is not here. He has started making demands in writing. So there will be a new need to do something. I think it is not impossible. I think any alternative is disaster.

As an almost-fledged lawyer you know the problem of getting counsel who meets my recommendation, experienced criminal counsel long on integrity, when there may be no more that a couple of months for him. Downing is pressuring Bud heavily on that once Bud told him he could not serve. Bud and I discussed a couple of possibilties. It may wind up with Bud taking the job on a temporary basis, not to extend after this session, and with that explicit, and with him recusing himself from anything having to do with the ing case. He would take a dollar for his entire period of employment. Unless they can come up with a good one this may be the best alternative.

Downing has agreed to my fairly pointed proposal on what the committee should restrict itself to for the remainder of this session: basic evidence on the homicides. If they go along with this we can make a strong record and deter some insanity. We can also have some prospects of turning some people around, meaning both kinds of people.

He and the Downing people seem to favor you as a consultant. I had earlier said you are one whose knowledge and judgement I trust most. Howver, with your new situation and this cocokamanie committee, it would be foolhardy, as I told Bud, for you to risk what you have. I did propose that you testify to the new materials you have obtained on the autopsy and autopsy-related material, for several reasons, some political, and Bud seemed to like that. I said also that I'd like very much to have you at my side when I testify if this is possible for you and again I explained why.

This could, before long, take the form of a confrontation between me and a number of others, like FBI agents and perhaps some of the medical finks. If it does, then in particular would I like you there. I have offered this confrontation under oath. It is one of the more promising ways of breaking the whole thing apart.

Nothing except the dangers and needs is certain. My hunch is that Bud, who has a better knowledge now of why I encouraged him not to take the job (still less than complete), may want it for this short period and under these limited and limiting conditions. At the same time I can think of no practical alternative. It is not at all certain that Gonzalez' accession to the chairmanship can be stopped, and you know what that means. In turn this means the rapid building of a solid record on the basic evidence before that is possible. We'll just have to keep the ear open for the playing. I am somewhat comforted by the acceptance of my fairly vigorous representations. I do hope that at the least they will take early testimony from you on the files I've not shown anyone, on the materials mentioned above. The honest representation of this could be an important political development. More I'd like but this does serve your personal interest. If I have to I'll settle for that. If it happens dpn't spent any money on copies. Bring your originals. They have been granted ~~xxxxx~~ $100,000 or $150,000 for three or four months, they'll have little staff and other expenses, so they can pay for all copies they need. If you can think of anything else that is either basic or important in giving direction and limiting future nuttiness let me know.

The end of the committee is what Bud had envisioned as the reality of this Congress and the next. The hard-ball is that Downing's contacts are immediately know, or surveillance. Assuming I've not been deceived, which would not be new, I'm now more concerned about the next Congress. However, I am, personally, somewhat comforted by having, apparently, been able to do what was necessary when dealing only with those who do not love me. Best,